Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, NI

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF PAN AMERICAN FOURTH FREVIENCY

REF: (A) STATE 166464, (B) LAGOS 8677

- 1. ECON COUNSELOR AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICER MET WITH PERMSEC OF CIVIL AVIATION EHIMZUELEM AND PRINCIPAL SECRETARY ADEGBENRO ON BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS JUNE 20 AND JULY 1. ALL POINTS OF U.S. POSITION AGAIN FORCEFULLY PRESENTED AND GIST OF REMZELS TRANSMITTED.
- 2. AFTER REREADING OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON SATURDAY, PERMSEC "REGRETFULLY" STATED THAT HE AND ADEGBENRO COULD FIND NO BASIS FOR PAN AM'S AND USG'S INTERPRETATIONS ADVOCATING FOURTH FREQUENCY. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE MINISTRY HAD OPPOSED A FOURTH FREQUENCY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND LOGICALLY WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT THAT AUTHORIZED SUCH A FREQUENCY AS SOON AS THE AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO FORCE. PERMSEC WENT ON TO WARN THAT ATTEMPTED PAN AM FLIGHT ARRIVAL ON JULY 4 WOULD ONLY RESULT KN "AN INCIDENT" THAT WE SHOULD ALL WISH TO AVOID.

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3. NOT BACKING OFF ON ISSUE, WE REQUESTED MEETING ASAP TO RESOLVE IMPASSE. FMG LEGAL ADVISORS, NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS IN OCTOBER'S AGREEMENT NEGOZIATIONS, AND MINISTRY'S TOP OFFICIALS ARE TO ATTEND. MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JULY 3 AT 1100 HOURS LOCAL TIME. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE ATTENDANCE OF DR. AJALA, THE MINISTRY'S LAWYER DURING THE

TALKS IN OCTOBER, AS WE BELIEVE HIS VEIWS SUPPORT OURS. (AJALA HAD SINCE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MIN. JUSTICE, BUT SHOULD RETURN FOR JULY 3 SESSION.)

4. FACED WITH FLIGHT ARRIVAL DEADLINE NOW HOURS AWAY, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT PAN AM NOT AUTHORIZE FLIGHT TO PROCEED BEYOND ABIDJAN ON JULY 4. WE CONTINUE TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH RESIDENT PAN AM MANAGER DENAZARIO. HE IS RADIOING TO PAN AM NEWYORK HEADQUARTERS TONIGHT WITH SUMMARY OF OUR VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATION THAT FLIGHT BE POSTPONED UNTIL LATER DATE. EASUM

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